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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/625,777	07/26/2000	Tao Chen	PA000330	7872

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Qualcomm Incorporated
Patents Department
5775 Morehouse Drive
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EXAMINER

ZIMMERMAN, BRIAN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2635

DATE MAILED: 03/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/625,777

Applicant(s)

CHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Brian A Zimmerman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

EXAMINER'S RESPONSE

Status of Application

In response to the applicant's amendment received on 11/14/02. The examiner has considered the new presentation of claims and applicant arguments in view of the disclosure and the present state of the prior art. And it is the examiner's position that claims 1,3-5,7 are unpatentable for the reasons set forth in this office action:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 5,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruckert (5920549) and Ghosh (6018667).

Bruckert shows searching a plurality of pilot channels associated with a plurality of base stations to choose the "best" base station(s). Then the paging channels from the best base stations are further used to set up a call. Bruckert differs from the claimed invention in that it does not show the paging channels (from the plurality of base stations) in substantially overlapping time slots. See col. 4 lines 49-57. Bruckert shows soft combining the best base station signals into a composite received signal

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(see col. 8 lines 33-45) and making (decoding) decisions based upon the composite signal.

In an analogous art, Ghosh shows the advantages of having neighboring base stations synchronized to each other. Synchronized base stations imply that the paging channels substantially overlap. This decreases acquisition time. See col. 2 lines 10-22.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have synchronized the paging channels of adjacent base stations in Bruckert since Ghosh shows this reduces acquisition time.

2. Claims 1,3,4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruckert and Gosh as applied to claim 5,7,8 above, and further in view of Willey (6138034).

In an analogous art, Willey teaches the use of a quick paging channel which reduces idle handoffs. See col. 1 lines 25-35. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have used a quick paging channel in the above modified system since such would decrease idle handoffs.

The applicant argues that the references do not show the claimed subject matter. Although this is a broad sweeping argument without merit, the examiner will respond by assuming that the applicant is arguing that the references do not show soft combining as now claimed in claims 1,5,7.

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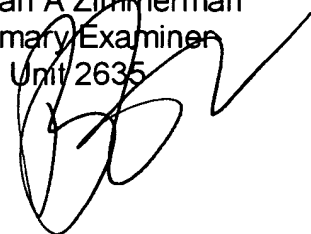
Bruckert shows soft combining the best base station signals into a composite received signal (see col. 8 lines 33-45) and making (decoding) decisions based upon the composite signal.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian A Zimmerman whose telephone number is 703-305-4796. The examiner can normally be reached on Off every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Horabik can be reached on 703-305-4704. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9314 for regular communications and 703-872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

Brian A Zimmerman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2635



BaZ
February 27, 2003